

P 051455Z MAR 09  
FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0802  
INFO HQ USAF WASHINGTON DC  
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC  
JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC  
HQ USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE  
HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE  
USTRANSCOM SCOTT AFB IL  
USAFE COMAFFOR RAMSTEIN AB GE  
USAFE AMOCC RAMSTEIN AB GE  
COMUSNAVEUR NAPLES IT  
CDRUSAREUR DCSOPS HEIDELBERG GE  
HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI  
HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL  
HQ AMC SCOTT AFB IL  
USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
COMUSCENTAF SHAW AFB SC  
DFAS KAISERSLAUTERN GE  
HQ AMC TACC SCOTT AFB IL  
OSAF WASHINGTON DC  
HQ USAF WASHINGTON DC  
HQ USAF WASHINGTON DC  
FAA WASHDC  
FAA AERONAUTICAL CEN OKLAHOMA CITY OK

UNCLAS COTONOU 000081

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAIR KREC MARR MOPS BN

SUBJECT: BENIN - INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP DECISION ON THE STATUS OF COTONOU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

REFS: A. STATE 16579, B. 07 COTONOU 000328,  
IC. 07 STATE 043720

¶1. In response to REF A post has sent Diplomatic Note No. 049 to the Government of Benin's (GOB) Ministry of Foreign Affairs on March 5, 2009.

¶2. Begin text:

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Integration, Francophonie and the Beninese Diaspora of the Republic of Benin and has the honor to inform the Ministry of the following.

The policy of the Government of the United States of America is that government aircraft operated in or through the airspace of another state will not be required to pay navigation, over flight or terminal fees; will not be required to pay landing, parking, or other use fees at government airports. However, it will pay reasonable charges for goods or services requested and received at both government and non-government airports. This policy, which is based upon the unique status of state aircraft in international law as instruments of sovereignty, is consistent with international custom and practice.

The United States applies this policy to all military and other U.S. state aircraft. The United States Government does not impose such fees on foreign State aircraft visiting or transiting the United States.

Pursuant to this policy the United States Government should not be charged landing and parking fees at Cotonou International Airport for government (including military) aircraft.

The Embassy of the United States of America thanks the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Integration, Francophonie and Beninese Diaspora for its cooperation and avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry, the assurance of its highest consideration.

END TEXT

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